Education Interim Committee, Oct. 17, 2018

Recommendations from Computer Science Task Force

Adopted by Utah State Board of Education, June 7, 2018

Task Force Members:

Name	Group Representatives	Other Attendees
Sydnee Dickson	USBE Facilitator of Taskforce	
Brittney Cummins	USBE Board Member	Janet Cannon
Linda Hansen	USBE Board Member	
Ann Millner	Utah Legislature - Senate	
John Knotwell	Utah Legislature - House	
Mark Clement	LEA Board Member	Quince Snell
Ashley Dreier	Utah Technology Council	
Sara Jones	Women Technology Council	Kristin Wright
Aaron Skonnard	Silicon Slopes	Lindsey Kneuven
Lorie Millward*	ISEE Partner	
Tami Goetz	STEM Action Center	
Kimberlee Carlile	GOED	Ben Hart
Helen Hu	Private University	
Jared Haines	UT System of Technical Colleges	Clay Christensen
Nicole Reitz-Larsen	Secondary School - Teacher	
Camile Cole*	Elementary Teacher	
Rick Robins	Superintendent	
Tyler Howe	Secondary Principal	
Nate Esplin	Elementary Principal	
Jason Strate	Regional Service Center Director	
Ray Long*	CTE Director	
Alan Kendall	Special Education Teacher	
DeLaina Tonks	Charter School	Crystal Van Ausdal
Jason Stevenson	Parent	
Name	**USBE Staff**	
Patty Norman	Deputy Superintendent	
Brandon Jacobson	CTE Education Specialist	
Thalea Longhurst	CTE Director	
Ashley Higgs	CTE Education Specialist	
Sarah Young	DTL Coordinator	

Vision for Computer Science in UT Public Schools:

Each student in secondary public schools will have access to robust and varied computer science courses by 2022. All students will enter secondary schools with exposure to computational thinking and competencies in digital literacy. This begins in our elementary schools with competencies in keyboarding, appropriate and responsible use of technology, and basic coding principles.

Strategic Priorities to accomplish vision:

Develop and implement statewide K-12 framework for computer science

- Define computer science for elementary, middle, and high school levels
- Follow the USBE steps for standards development
- Engage with industry advisory councils to establish job ready standards at secondary level

Start early by engaging students at the elementary level

- Promote exposure to problem-solving, logic, mathematical reasoning, and coding opportunities
- Engage teachers in integrating content with productivity tools
- Work early and often with students/parents/teachers on internet and digital safety

Develop a statewide strategy to communicate the value of computer science

- Engage with variety of audiences including parents, students, teachers, school and district leaders, industry, etc.
- Provide transparent data on job market and use of computer science skills in Utah

Build capacity among educators at pre-service and in-service levels

- Work with Utah Council of Education Deans to ensure teachers are prepared to teach with requisite computer science and digital literacy skills
- Provide pathways to engage variety of current teachers in earning computer science credentials
- Compile a list of vetted, open educational resources that teachers can easily adopt to teach computer science in their classrooms

Improve upon current course requirements to scaffold computer science learning K-12

- Change "recommend" to require keyboarding K-5, including competency exam by 5th grade.
- Add computer science courses to middle school offerings
- Provide competency route to middle school digital literacy course
- Develop computational thinking as integral part of elementary education experiences, (i.e., analyzing and decomposing problems, identifying patterns, utilizing abstraction, developing algorithms).

Ensure students can access a majority of the 19 computer science courses currently offered, (33 including IT courses); regardless of geography.

- Provide multiple options for student access to coursework, including face to face, blended model, and distance learning.
- Work with industry to support computer science coursework and delivery